

Bound for lodges on Alaska's Prince of Wales Island, anglers debark at Craig after float plane flight from Ketchikan



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Steelhead, salmon, and totems on Alaska's big Prince of Wales Island

It's a short ride by plane or ferry from Ketchikan

Third largest island in the U.S., and largest by far on southeastern Alaska's Inside Passage, Prince of Wales draws its biggest crowds from mid-April through October. Visitors come—most by air or ferry from Ketchikan, 45 miles to the east—to take advantage of the superb angling here.

Fresh-water fishermen will find plenty of steelhead trout. Others can fish the calm salt-water passages for king salmon, halibut, flounder—and chum, pink, and silver

salmon. Good fishing begins in mid-April and extends through September; for specific peak-season information, call a lodge or the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, (907) 755-2232. A state fishing license (\$10 for 3 days, \$20 for 14) is required for anyone 16 and over.

About 2,200 square miles in size, the densely forested island (average annual rainfall is more than 100 inches) is smaller than only Kodiak and Hawaii.

Tlingit Indians have occupied Prince of Wales for over 5,000 years; they were joined in the mid-1700s by Haida Indians from the Queen Charlotte Islands to the south. Today, you can tour a Tlingit totem park and the Tlingit village of Klawock.

Two miles east of Klawock, you can also tour a state-run hatchery where trout and salmon are raised. It's open from 8 to 4:30 weekdays, and on weekends by appointment. From mid-May through September, 2-hour guided tours (\$14) include village, hatchery, totem park, and performances of Tlingit dances. Write to Prince of Wales Island Tours, Box 161, Klawock 99925, or call 755-2959.

Wildlife is also abundant: geese, swans, ducks, bald eagles, Sitka black-tailed deer, black bear, marten, mink, river otter, and southeastern Alaska's largest concentration of timber wolves per square mile. Seals, sea lions, and killer whales are often seen near shore.

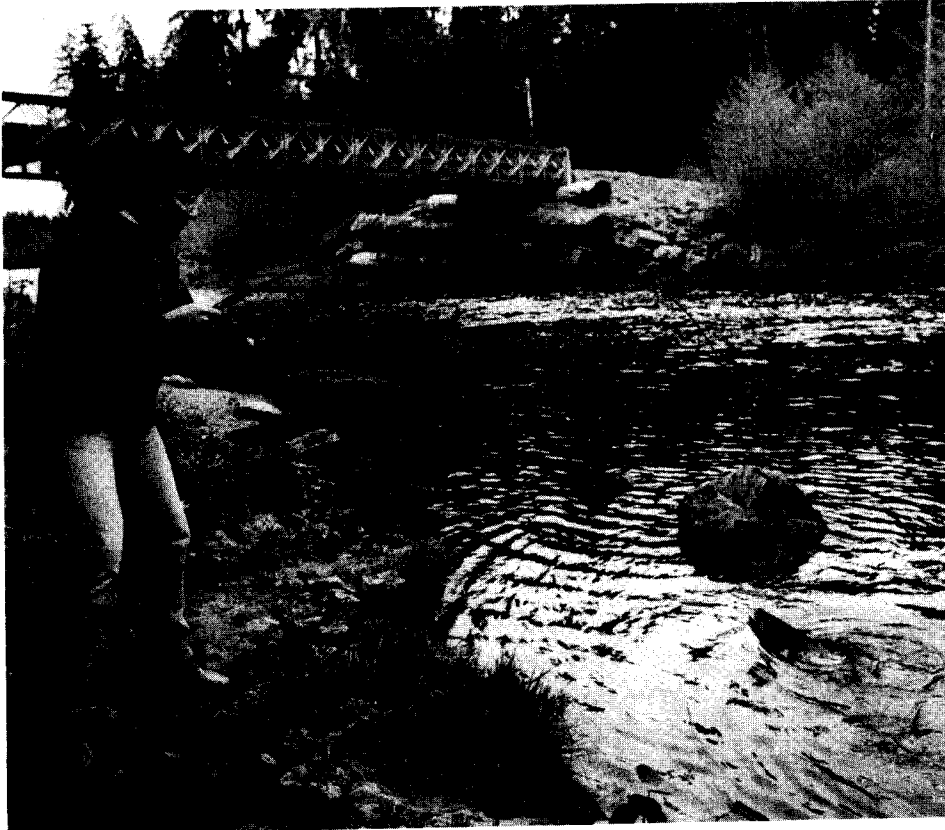
By float plane or ferry: getting to Prince of Wales

Temco Airlines (1249 Tongass Ave., Ketchikan 99901; 225-9810) is the only firm offering regular flights to the island.

Ferries ply Alaska's Marine Highway system to provide regular car and passenger service from Ketchikan. They land on the island at Hollis—a ferry-route end point and nothing else. For necessary reservations, write to Alaska Marine Highway, Box R, Juneau 99811, or call 465-3941; outside Alaska, call (800) 642-0066.

Through April, the ferry runs every two or three days. The trip takes 3 hours each way; round trip costs \$20 for adults; \$6 for ages 6 to 11; \$62 for a standard-size vehicle and a driver. From Hollis, buses run regularly to Klawock (\$7 one way) and Craig (\$10); reservations are required (Fred's Bus Service, 826-3229). Taxis can also take you to either town;

BEN DAVIDSON



Fishing under overcast skies, he hauls in steelhead trout on guided fishing expedition to Stanley Creek; resort supplied equipment (and guide)



Carved creatures decorate 8-foot totem pole made by Tlingit Indians— island residents for 5,000 years

again, reservations are required (Dot's Den, 285-3375; or Prince of Wales Island Tours, 755-2959).

Gasoline, car services, and rental cars are available in Ketchikan (\$22 per day, 20 cents per mile), Craig, and Klawock (both \$25 per day, 25 cents per mile). If you do drive, be sure to pick up a Prince of Wales Island Road Guide (leaflet 180), \$2, at Forest Service offices in Ketchikan, Craig, or Thorne Bay; or write or call Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest, Federal Building, Ketchikan 99901 (225-3101). Remember that Prince of Wales is being actively logged; as you travel the island's 700 miles of mostly unpaved road, be prepared to meet huge logging trucks—and to pass through large clear-cut areas.

Three fishing lodges

Fireweed Lodge, Box 116, Klawock 99925; 755-2930. Salt-water packages including guided fishing, lodging, meals, and equipment cost \$660 per person for three days, \$1,250 for seven. Daily rates are \$89 to \$139 per person, including meals.

Prince of Wales Lodge, Box 72, Klawock 99925; 755-2227. Rates per person (including flight from Ketchikan, meals, guide boats, bait, and salt-water tackle) range from \$940 for three days to \$2,399 for seven days. If space is available, you can stay daily for \$55 single or \$62.50 double. Unguided salt-water fishing packages are less: May through June 15 and September 16 through October 15, a

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*"I saved the cork
from last night's champagne."
"I want to remember everything about
last night forever. The way you looked...
that wonderful little romantic French
restaurant...the delicious food...
the way you held my hand...
I think I'm falling
in love again..."*

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